CONCORDIA LIBRARIES

BiblioNEWS

Date October 2, 1990 Vol. 1 No. 1

EDITORIAL STATEMENT

Welcome to the inaugural issue of BiblioNEWS, the Concordia University Libraries newsletter. The purpose of this publication is to inform people of changes and developments within departments and to act as a forum for discussion of issues of general interest. It is informal in approach and does not represent the official policy of the university administration.

The members of the interim editorial board would like to introduce ourselves and to explain how we came to be appointed.

We are:

Joy Bennett	Norris	7715
Matt Seebruch	Norris	7690
Thea Jones	Vanier	7736
Luigina Vileno	Vanier	7760
Ruth Noble	SEL	7723
Shirley Fewster	SEL	7733
Caroll Paradis	LL	7743
Margaret Ferley	LL	7751

Lack of communication was a widespread concern expressed to Dr. Louis Vagianos and Dr. Catherine MacKenzie during their examination of the library. Seeking to address this problem, Dr. Vagianos entrusted Irene Sendek with the responsibility of establishing a newsletter. In consultation with the Division Heads, she invited the present group to constitute the editorial board. Our mandate is to produce the publication quickly.

Since an appointed board may not fully represent the interests of the readers, we have declared ourselves to be an interim body. At the inaugural meeting of the board, the following motion was passed:

"Given the interim nature of this editorial board, the January or February 1991 issue should include a survey of its readers, relating to their interest in the newsletter and willingness to participate in the editorial process, or as contributors. The purpose of this survey is to establish recommendations for a smooth transition period in April or May 1991."

We expect to hand over operation of the newsletter to a reconstituted board at that time.

All readers are invited to contribute. If you have written an article, or have an idea for an article, we would like to hear from you! Any one of the people listed above would be pleased to receive a submission.

Just a reminder!

FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

Contributions are always welcome. Deadline for publishing in the next issue is October 22nd. Just leave your signed articles or suggestions for newsworthy items with any member of the ed. board. Nicest for us, but not essential, would be your idea or story on a diskette in WordPerfect 4.2 accompanied by a hard copy. Just be sure your name is on it, and we'll return the diskette to you. Thanks!

THE FUTURE OF THE PRESENT

The latter half of the 20th century will be characterized as a period in which information technology created a future marked by two environmental constants: permanent, rapid, transformative change as the principal agent in human affairs; and a shift from the production of industrial goods to knowledge related sectors as the economic base for wealth generation in society.

It is hard for us, living as we do in a climate in which everything appears to be regularly made anew, to appreciate the degree to which such a situation represents something novel. But for much of human history, even if tomorrow was not the same as yesterday, the expectation remained that one year would be substantially like the next.

Amidst this climate of change, the role of libraries has been altered fundamentally. On the one hand, librarians are being required to do more, while their financial support is diminishing as other social agencies press for more aid. On the other hand unprecedented external pressures - new competition, rising costs, inappropriate facilities, a proliferation of material from which to choose and revised requirements for service - make it difficult even to maintain the status quo.

Our library system is no exception and can not be protected from dealing with these new realities. Little wonder that many of us feel threatened, uncertain, and anxious about the future and our particular roles within the library. A philosopher once wrote that the future is in the present, meaning we must learn from the past to move forward. But then, learn what?

From the vantage point of my experience, we must first believe that our fate lies in ourselves and not our stars; and the key lesson to be learned and understood is that organizations are fragile organisms. They survive and thrive not solely, or primarily, through good administration and efficient systems. Rather, they develop and are nourished within a climate of shared vision, civility, the consistent and equitable application of policies, and, above all else, trust and mutual respect.

In many ways, difficult as the process can be to set in motion, creating a shared vision, assuring civility, and providing equity of treatment are more readily dealt with than building a suitable climate of trust and mutual respect. And yet without trust and mutual respect, no system will prosper or can hope to achieve excellence. We trust

and respect people for many reasons, but, in all cases, it must be earned if we are to expect loyalty. It is earned, over time, because of demonstrated human capacities, compassion, and skill. The first item of business, then, is for each of us to understand that the future of the future is in the present, in each of us and our actions; that the "raison d'etre" for any library is to collect, organize, disseminate, and help preserve the collective mind in order to ensure all citizens have access to ideas. Man, you see, is what he thinks, so that ideas are the motive forces which shape history.

Much needs to be done. All of you, together with your best efforts, will be needed to get it done. We have a special obligation to Concordia and the future. Let's not dwell on the problems of the past. The challenges which face us are far more interesting and important.

Dr. L. Vagianos

SEASONS CHANGE AT VANIER

The leaves are turning, there's a nip in the air, and this means fall has arrived. The moment we've all been restlessly awaiting is here. Classes have started and the library is in a frenzy. New and familiar faces appear, some of which already seem at ease in our "beautiful library", and those who look like they will always be lost in a university setting.

Library tours, orientations and the information desk will help. So too will the very, very, very friendly staff from all areas of the library. This eagerness to serve results in a high percentage of library users who happily loiter around and chat. And this is the key to Vanier's uniqueness.

One of these unique individuals is Kathy Hirst, the new Circulation Supervisor. She has seen it all, and will undoubtedly handle any new situation with her usual efficiency and charm.

We hope that at some point in the school year the downtown staff will venture over to Vanier. Allow us to direct you and join you for a beer at our conveniently located Oasis Bar next door. Thank goodness for extentions.

Thea Jones & Luigina Vileno

'Tis the Season...' in Tech. Services

As Summer winds to a close, visions of sugar plums begin to dance through the heads of the staff at 980 Guy. The source of such inspiration ... the sudden appearance of the box of mini chocolate bars for sale in the Staff Lounge, a welcome sight to all who have kept their sweettooth cravings in check until now. September in Tech. Services heralds the start of our annual Gazette Christmas Fund collection, now in its sixth year under the guidance of John Wojciechowicz.

The 'inaugural' get-together for the season took place in the T.S. Staff Lounge on Tuesday, September 4. A delightful time was had by all but the dieters, when faced with the tempting array of cakes, cookies, muffins and fruitbreads for sale, courtesy of the many gifted bakers among us. As in the past, their efforts paid off - literally!

Our aim this year is to surpass what we collected in '89. With such a promising start, the T.S. Gazette Christmas fund is well on its way to another successful year.

LIBRARY REPRESENTATION

Joy Bennett, Interlibrary Loans Librarian, will represent the Director of Libraries at the Sous-comite des bibliotheques, Conferences des Recteurs et des Principaux des Universites du Quebec (CREPUQ). She has already attended her first meeting on September 19, 1990.

Lillian Rubinlicht, Head of Technical Services will sit on the Joint Grievance Committee, Concordia University Faculty Association (CUFA). The Joint Grievance Committee is composed of four representative, two appointed by the Association and two appointed by the University (with corresponding alternatives for all). Lillian is the University's Representative.

NEWS FROM YOUR SEL-MATES

And now, from the 10th floor of the beautiful downtown Hall Building, we bring you an update on the merry (or is that motley?) crew at SEL. At the moment of writing we number nineteen in all, however, numbers and particularly NAMES can change often. We hope to introduce you to the members of our group in succeeding newsletters, but for now we will mention only a few. Our latest arrival, **Shiva Khatabi**, has come to our Reference Unit via Tech. Services, and Norris Stacks. We welcome **Liz Winiarz** back after a one-year sabbatical spent in part at M.I.T. in Boston and then in Ottawa at the Sport Information Resource Centre. **Fleurette Gregoire**, who was Liz's capable replacement, is now at the Montreal Children's Hospital Library; all of us wish her well in her new position.

The **great summer shift** has kept our stack attendants more than well occupied in the past while. They've shifted indexes, monographs and the reference collection, no doubt practicing for the **Shuchat shuffle** that's now begun. Waiting for space in the new library, we see a lot of eager SEL faces watching the new building rise. This we can do from the 7th floor cafeteria, if not from ground level, yet!

SEL has been getting spruced up for the new semester with some necessary repairs. Students and staff will no longer have to stumble their way to the stacks, now that the buckling carpet has been replaced. The matching undulating tabletops are due to go soon. There is now a computer at the reference desk--hooray! No more sprints across the lineup at Circulation for the reference librarians.

If you're in the mood for a little exercise, (don't count on the elevators or escalators), drop up and see us some time. We'll be glad to see you!

Shirley Fewster & Ruth Noble

WHO'S WHERE

This list, drawn up with the cooperation of ASO, contains changes which took place on or after June 1, 1990.

<u>Administration</u>
Irene Sendek has been appointed Assistant Director, Administrative Services.

Paola Cicciu has been appointed Secretary in the Administrative Services Office.

Louis Vagianos, Irene Sendek, Donna Reed, Paola Cicciu and Oma Mohamed have moved to N-530.

Technical Services

Sharon Duquet is acting as Secretary in Technical Services until Nov. 2, 1990, replacing Linda Quartz, who is on maternity leave.

Reader Services

Joseph Princz has returned to the position of Associate Director, Reader Services.

Systems Office

Larry McGoldrick is acting as Technical Specialist until May 31, 1991, replacing Carol Gomez. Carol has left the University.

Acquisitions

Karen Yuzwenko is acting as Kardex Clerk, replacing Taye Haile who is on leave of absence until August 5, 1991.

Irene Mahady returned to Serials on June 4, 1990 after a leave of absence.

Terry Quigley returned in July to the position of Targetter after working for some time as a supernumerary in Receiving.

Cataloguing

Freda Otchere is unfortunately on long-term sick leave.

Suzanne Huot returned on September 10, 1990 to her position as Derived Cataloguer.

Science and Engineering Library

Elizabeth Winiarz returned from sabbatical leave on June 1, 1990.

Peter Randell became Overdues Assistant on August 1, 1990.

Satwant Sihota became Senior Stack Attendant on September 4, 1990.

Shiva Khatibi is acting as Reference clerk, replacing Larry McGoldrick.

Deborah Herman is acting as Stack attendant, replacing Brenda Fewster (who is replacing Dolly Shinhat-Ross who is on leave of absence....)

Clara Fewster-Litinas is acting as Stack Attendant, replacing Deborah Herman.

Norris Library

Sonia Poulin and Jackie Dealy have undertaken limited term appointments as Reference/Selection Librarians, replacing Ann Golubowski and Charlotte McLaurin, who are both on Sabbatical leave until May 31, 1991.

Gabriella Hochmann is unfortunately on long-term sick leave.

Tommy Chalmers became Stacks Supervisor on June 26, 1990.

Pat Winston is acting as Reference/Selection Assistant, replacing Terry Bagnato. Terry is unfortunately on long-term sick leave.

Candice Bruno became Circulation Clerk on August 1, 1990.

Rose Fong became Reference Clerk on June 4, 1990.

Dereje Taye is acting as Circulation Clerk, replacing Sonia Phan.

John Chyzenski became Stack Attendant on June 4, 1990.

Glennie Henry is acting as Stack Attendant until March 1 1991, replacing Shirley Fewster (who is acting as Stack Attendant in the Science and Engineering Library, replacing Martine Langevin who is acting as Government Publications Assistant, replacing Marva Chase who is on leave of absence .....)

Maria Jodoin is acting as Stack Attendant, replacing Dereje Taye.

David Pukteris has moved to 429-10.

Non-Print

Sonia Phan is acting as Evening clerk, replacing **Janina Warzecha** (who is acting as Kardex clerk, replacing **Santina Fazio-Stone** who is on Maternity leave.....)

Vanier Library

Kathleen Hirst became Circulation Supervisor on June 11, 1990.

PREPARING FOR THE WORST: THE DISASTER ACTION TEAM LOOKS ON THE DARK SIDE

At its next meeting in September, the Disaster Action Team (Judy Appleby/VL, Lee Harris/SEL, Nancy Marrelli/Archives, Ruth Rohrlick/NOR, Irene Sendek/Admin. Services, R.J. Wrightson/TEC) will finalize the Disaster Plan for the Libraries and Archives. The Plan will enable us to respond quickly and effectively in the event of a disaster affecting library collections and equipment. Fast response to disasters is of vital importance in libraries; smoke and water can result in damage to paper binding and film which is difficult, if not impossible, to repair. At normal temperatures, mould starts to grow on paper as early as 48 hours after it becomes wet.

Key elements of the plan are:

1) a disaster action team, with authority and knowledge to respond fast to disasters affecting collections; there is a representative from each library location and the Archives;

2) listings of special supplies, services and experts to contact in the event of a disaster;

3) floor plans showing the location of priority collections and supplies of plastic sheeting throughout the libraries, so that especially important (e.g. card catalogues) or vulnerable (e.g. fine arts books on glossy paper) materials will receive priority treatment;

4) stores of emergency supplies, such as protective sheeting, to protect stacks or the catalogues from water damage.

A 'who to contact' notice will be posted on bulletin boards throughout the library.

Disasters affecting collections are not new to Concordia, and they have an unfortunate tendency to occur when people aren't around: the Hyman's fire, 29 March 1990, 3am; the insulation fire in the old Vanier, Feb. 1989; the fall of "David", Vanier Library, 20 March 1987, sometime after midnight; and the Archives fire during the Christmas-New Year's break, Jan. 1981. The Plan is like insurance coverage: you hope never to have to use it, but when you do, it helps to soften the blow.

It is the Disaster Action Team's intention to publish the plan, so it can be of use to other libraries; arrangements for this have still to be made. In the meantime, anyone interested in seeing it, can approach any one of the team members. Unit Heads will soon receive more detailed information on the Plan and its implications for them.

M. Ferley & R.J. Wrightson